

Athletic Stars of 1909 in the Local Field

GOOD YEAR IN LOCAL SPORTS.

Norwich Athletes Were in the Front Rank—Winning Records Made in Many Lines of Competition.

In a varied line of the sports that have been before the local field in the year of 1909, a more than usual number of top line honors can be noted as coming to the athletes of Norwich and vicinity. In baseball, football, wrestling, running and amateur and professional track athletics, there have been champions produced to win the laurels in their distinctive lines. The most prominent of these, professional and amateur, are shown in the illustrations on this page.

In the professional field, all comers have been made to bow to the prowess of Jack McGrath, the Irish Giant and heavyweight wrestler, whose bouts in defending the title to supremacy on the mat have attracted a numerous following and left him with a name for science, strength and gameness unquestioned.

In our national game, the Western high school baseball team has taken the highest honors within its grasp by capturing the state championship by defeating Bridgeport high in a close game, 1 to 0. Their first winning the eastern championship.

On the gridiron, the Norwich Free Academy football team, under the leadership of Coach Chapman, although not playing in any league, but they went through the season showing an excellently drilled eleven, skilled in the modern game.

Distance running was brought to the fore by the speedy endurance tests of E. Clifford Hilton, who represented Norwich with credit in a number of different events throughout New England and closed the season by knocking out 17 minutes of the road record from New London to Norwich, which he did in 1 hour 41 minutes.

The game in July at the 25th anniversary of the founding of Norwich gave a chance for the local professional and amateur athletes to show their worth in the field and track events. Here also the Norwich entries proved their class over the rest of the county, as the major share of the prizes fell to the representatives of the Central Athletic Club.

Jack O'Neil, who has been out of the game for more than a year, is ready to crawl through the ropes again. Any of the lightweights will suit.

Y. M. C. A. Winners at Norwich 25th Anniversary Games

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NOLAN OF NORWICH

AN OLD-TIME CHAMPION

Great 15-Mile Race of the Norwich Runner in 1891.

Hilton's run from New London to Norwich was a very creditable performance and will, no doubt, serve to awaken new interest in this sport, as well as to induce others to attempt to lower this record.

Old sports claim that the time is not verifiable, however, and say that Walsh was never considered a first class runner.

They claim that either J. D. Nolan or Ed. McMahon, whose races for the cross country championships are still remembered in Norwich, could have made the distance in 1 hour 30 minutes or better.

In support of this claim they refer to the 15-mile race between Nolan and McMahon in 1891. In the fall of 1891, Nolan went to Pittsburgh, Pa., under the alias of J. D. McCabe, and issued a challenge to run any man in America 25 miles. This challenge was not accepted, but a 15-mile race for an equal division of gate receipts was arranged with E. C. McClelland, who was then challenging the world from December 25 at Exposition park, Pittsburgh, with the thermometer 10 degrees below zero. McClelland took the lead at the start, running the first 5 miles in 27:40, Nolan passing the 10-mile mark in 56 minutes, after which the men alternated in the lead till the last lap, when McClelland got the lead, winning by ten yards in 1 hour 25 minutes 20 seconds. The Pittsburgh papers said it was one of the greatest races ever run in America. The Chicago Annual of 1892 contains an account of the race.

Will Rossman Return? St. Louis Americans Anxious to Have Him for First Base.

Will Claude Rossman return to the baseball field next season, or continue to work at a job that nets him in the neighborhood of \$18 a week? Although possessing far more natural ability than the average ball player, Rossman blew up last year as soon as the opponents of the Tigers discovered that he couldn't throw in a pinch. He was limited to St. Louis and insisted he be played in the outfield. One day as an outer gardener was enough to satisfy him. He refused to play, quit the club and went home.

Frank Chaney, the "heroic leader" of the Cubs, heads the National league first sackers with the fine average of .394. Chance in the 92 games he took part in, accepted 341 chances and made but six errors. He is tied in percentage by Alan Stocks of St. Louis, but the latter occupied the initial on but 10 occasions. Knottchy of the Cardinals, who played in 152 games, had the largest number of putouts (1384) and assists (37), but made two less errors than Knottchy of the Reds, who is charged with 28.

Dave Shinn gave Boston their only premiership of the year by holding for 950. Hitting of the same club is close second with 858. Miller of Pittsburgh, who took part in 150 contests, is third with 824. He accepted 486 chances and made 34 errors, five less than Larry Doyle, who was the chief offender. Miller is fourth in putouts making 1280. Evans of the Cubs led in this respect with 1292. Miller was first in assists with 428, 36 more than the runner credited to Egan of Cincinnati.

As predicted by critics last spring, Lennox of Brooklyn has proved the season's find. He led the third basemen of the league with an average of .350, accepting 372 of 413 chances and offered. Bobby Byrne of the Pirates was the hardest worked of the outfielders, having 372 chances and offered. Bobby Byrne of the Pirates was the hardest worked of the outfielders, having 372 chances and offered.

Abdullahi, the nominal leader of the short-field performers with an average of .365, but the real leaders are Wagner, Belding and Tinker, all of whom have percentage figures of .340. Of the trio Wagner led in putouts with 344, and Tinker in assists with 470.

Hummel and Downey of Brooklyn are the only outfielders with clean slates. They played, however, in 17 and 19 games, respectively. Fred Clarke of the champions is the leader of the list. His average, .387, represents 372 chances accepted of 384 offered.

The Pirates led the league in fielding as they did in batting, their grand average being .364. Boston was last with .347.

Schoolmaster Sam Leever, who pitched with eight victories and one defeat, carried the Pirates and Matthews' team to the top of the league. He worked 47 games, 32 of which he pitched, and was sent to the mound on 47 occasions.

The following is the showing made by the teams:

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STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC BASEBALL CHAMPIONS AND LEADERS OF THE EASTERN DIVISION OF LEAGUE

Top Row—Principal Swain, Manager Clifford, Coach Chapman.

Middle Row—Spargo, H. Burrows, p and R. Pembler, p and B. Wheeler, sub.

Bottom Row—Chapman, C. Martin, p and L. Foley, sub, Champlin, J. B. Foley, (capt) c. Flynn sub, Dutton, cf. Wells.

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